



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON INVASIVE SPECIES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 8, 2005

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Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission Recognized as an Invader Crusader

Wisconsin's land and water is continually threatened by the spread of invasive species. The battle against these invasive species has been fought for many years. One of the key leaders in the crusade against invasive species has been the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC). GLIFWC has been selected to receive one of the inaugural Invader Crusader Awards presented by the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species.

The Invader Crusader Award was created to honor Wisconsin citizens and organizations for their significant contribution to the prevention or eradication of invasive species that harm Wisconsin's land and waters.

GLIFWC's mission is to help ensure significant off-reservation harvests while protecting the resources for generations to come. Though GLIFWC's focus has been directed primarily towards the ceded territories, the impact of GLIFWC's activities, particularly its website and educational materials, has reached many interested organizations and individuals throughout the nation and has the potential to impact entire state of Wisconsin.

"It is important that we acknowledge the growing threat from invasive species to our natural resources and work to find solutions," said Governor Jim Doyle. Fortunately, invader crusaders, such as the GLIFWC, and other award recipients are part of the solution. They are dedicated to protecting our environmental resources and raising awareness of this critical issue.

Some of GLIFWC's activities range from comprehensive inventory and monitoring to the control and eradicate of plants such as purple loosestrife and leafy spurge. In fact, their most visible control efforts for loosestrife have

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GLIFWC—add one

occurred on the Fish Creek Sloughs where a sea of purple has returned to native wetland plants.

GLIFWC has also developed an informational website, <http://www.glifwc.org/epicenter/>, which contains 19 comprehensive and detailed species accounts with visuals, as well as interactive distribution maps, educational materials and a slide library.

“The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission has been a leader in addressing non-native terrestrial and aquatic invasive species issues” stated Wendy Stein, GLIFWC’s nominator, who works for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. “I work with GLIFWC, particularly Miles Falck, as members of the Northwoods Weed Initiative, which is a group of local, state, federal and tribal entities as well as non-profits and local landowners, whose focus is to collaborate on non-native invasive plant issues in northern Wisconsin and Michigan. Leafy spurge has been our most recent focus.”

Although this was the first year of the award, the response was very positive.

“We received 31 nominations for 22 different people or groups,” explained Becky Sapper with The Nature Conservancy and Invasive Species Council member. “There are so many that deserve recognition for their efforts to control invasive species in Wisconsin. We have high hopes that the number of nominations will continue to grow.”

Other recipients of the 2005 Invader Crusader Award are:
St. Catherine’s High School Environmental Club, Racine
Betty Czarapata (posthumous award), Muskego
Terri Lyon, Kiel
Kelly Kearns, Department of Natural Resources, Madison
Kristin Westad, Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, Dodgeville

Invasive species cause harm to ecological resources, causing losses in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

For more information on the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species or the Invader Crusader Award, call 715-682-5789.

This news release is sponsored by the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species. The Wisconsin State Legislature created the Council, to which Governor Doyle appointed 13 members. The Council’s mission is to prevent and reduce the harmful impacts of invasive species on Wisconsin’s environment and economy, as well as human well-being. Funding for this news release was provided by the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and the Natural Resource Foundation’s C.D. Besadny Conservation Grant Program.